GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3064
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
UTTAR KOEL AND BATANE PROJECTS OF JHARKHAND
Dubey Shri Chandra Shekhar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued a notification and handed over the management and control of Uttar Koel and Batane Projects to the Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Jharkhand has requested the Union Government to cancel the earlier notification and give the management and control of "head works" of Uttar Koel and Batane projects to the Government of Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c) Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000 provide for constitution of Ganga & Sone Management Board for administration, construction, maintenance and operation of water resources projects in relation to Ganga and its tributaries & Sone and its tributaries. Further Section 63 of the Act provides that the arrangement in regard to supply of water for any area shall not be modified to the disadvantage of any area by reason of the fact that it is, by virtue of the provision of Part II of the Act, outside the State in which the catchment area, reservoirs and other works for supply of water, as the case may be, are located. Therefore, on November, 14, 2000 a Notification under Section 63 of the Act was issued in the interest of continuance of existing arrangement in regard to supply of water to the successor States of Bihar and Jharkhand in relation to 7 water resources projects including North Koel & Batane Reservoir Project. The continuance of existing arrangement was till the Ganga & Sone Management Board becomes functional or any other suitable arrangement is made.

State Government of Jharkhand has requested for transferring the responsibility of North Koel and Batane Reservoir Project to Government of Jharkhand by modifying existing notification of November, 2000. The Ministry of Water Resources convened an Inter-State meeting on 22nd September, 2004 with the representatives of the States of Jharkhand and Bihar to discuss inter alia the construction and management of North-Koel and Batane Reservoir Projects in Jharkhand. In the meeting, representatives of both States have agreed for sharing the cost and benefit from these projects as per the guidelines prepared by Central Water Commission, as also construction of headworks by the State of Jharkhand on behalf of Bihar as a deposit work. The cancellation of the earlier notification is dependent upon receipt of concurrence of Bihar and Jharkhand.